



The Jungle Times

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Goodbyes

Michelle Nordkvist

Michelle joined us here at DGFC for two months, during which she collected data for her masters thesis to investigate the effect of human disturbance on crocodiles of the Kinabatangan. She carried out both point surveys and night surveys during her time here. Michelle now returns to Sweden where she will finish her Masters. We wish you all the luck for the future Michelle!



Agnès Villa

Agnès has been a volunteer at DGFC for nearly three months. She is a Forestry student from France, and has spent a large portion of her time here studying and working within the 10 botanical plots found around DGFC. Agnès now leaves DGFC to spend Christmas in Kota Kinabalu before returning to France where she will continue her studies at Nancy University. Thanks for all your help during your stay Agnès!

Goodbye Alex!

Alex Horton

Alex has been with us for three months collecting data and samples for his PhD in fluvial geomorphology. This has involved him digging many holes in the soil along the banks of the Kinabatangan river and spending hours sifting through dirt to obtain roots! Alex will now return to Cardiff to carry on working on his PhD. We hope to see you again soon Alex!



Crocodile Hatchlings

This month PhD student Luke Evans has been spending evenings out on the river, catching and sampling crocodile hatchlings. Hatchlings are spotted in the river due to their eye shine which can also be used to judge the crocodile size. Hatchlings are measured and a scute sample is removed from the tail of the crocodile for the purpose of genetic analysis.



Luke also carried out an expedition this month, which involved him travelling a distance of 120km up river and returning to DG after dark, sampling any hatchlings seen as he journeyed back. During this expedition, Luke was able to catch and sample eight crocodile hatchlings.



Christmas at DGFC!

Christmas has truly arrived at DG this December! The PTY students and volunteers have got creative, making advent calendars and pictures to decorate the walls of their office!



Volunteers here at DG also made us our very own stick Christmas tree to hang in the room!



Camera Traps

Forest corridor monitoring using camera traps is an on-going project here at DGFC, capturing amazing images and glances of many animal species around the Kinabatangan. These are some of the best camera trap photos recently taken!



Orangutan



Bornean elephant



Bearded pigs



Bornean elephant



Sun bear



Oriental small clawed otter

Camera Traps Continued...



Sunda clouded leopard



Long-tailed macaque



Pig-tailed macaque



Proboscis monkey



Bornean elephants



Malay civet

Conservation Corner:

Common name:
Mountain serpent-eagle

Scientific name:
Spilornis kinabaluensis

IUCN status:
Vulnerable



Description and Ecology:

The mountain serpent-eagle is found in the submontane and montane evergreen rainforests of Borneo. It inhabits ridge tops at elevations between 750-2,900m. Little is known about their feeding behaviour, however they have been seen consuming both snakes and lizards, using their sharp and hooked beaks to shred their prey. The eagles are dark brown in colour with a pale and speckled underside.

Threats:

The main threat to the mountain serpent-eagle is that of habitat loss and degradation, resulting from the growth in agriculture and logging. However, due to the majority of its habitat being at high elevations, some of the species habitat remains untouched.

Conservation:

Whilst it is protected in parks within Sarawak, those areas outside the confines of such parks do not receive the same protection. Despite this, research into estimating both range and population size of the species has been recommended, and protection of this species habitat has been suggested.

Match the Fur!

1



A

Clouded
Leopard

2



B

Malay
Civet

3



C

Sun Bear

Jungle Fact of the Month

A tarsier is able to turn its head nearly 360 degrees due to its uniquely shaped spine

Photos of the Year!



Photos taken by: Kirsty Franklin, Aimee Holborow, Roxanne Everitt, Rhys White, Kenneth Keuk and Kieran Love

Photos of the Year!



Baharudin@Budindgfc 2014



Photos taken by Baharudin Budin, Kenneth Keuk, Roxanne Everitt, Aimee Holborow, Rhys White, Mona Zimmerman and François Ciavatti

Publications of the Year!

- Abram NK, Xofis P, Tzanopoulos J, MacMillan DC, Ancrenaz M, Chung R, **Peter L**, Ong R, Lackman I, **Goossens B**, Ambu L, Knight AT, 2014. Synergies for improving oil palm production and forest conservation in floodplain landscapes. *PLoS ONE* **9**: e95388.
- Ancrenaz M, Sollmann R, Meijaard E, Hearn AJ, Ross J, Samejima H, Loken B, Cheyne SM, **Stark DJ**, **Gardner PC**, **Goossens B**, *et al.* 2014. Coming down from the trees: Is terrestrial activity in Bornean orangutans natural or disturbance driven? *Scientific Reports* **4**: 4024.
- English M, Ancrenaz M, Gillespie G, **Goossens B**, **Nathan S**, Linklater W, 2014. Foraging site recursion by forest elephants *Elephas maximus borneensis*. *Current Zoology* **60**: 551-559.
- English M, Gillespie G, Ancrenaz M, Ismail S, **Goossens B**, **Nathan S**, Linklater W, 2014. Plant selection and avoidance by the Bornean elephant (*Elephas maximus borneensis*) in tropical forest: does plant recovery rate after herbivory influence food choices? *Journal of Tropical Ecology* **30**: 371-379.
- **Gardner PC**, Ambu L, Bernard H, **Goossens B**, 2014. The rare flat-headed cat and other felids in Tabin Wildlife Reserve, Sabah, Malaysia. *CATnews* **61**: 37-41.
- Gregory SD, Ancrenaz M, Brook BW, **Goossens B**, Alfred R, Ambu LN, Fordham DA, 2014. Forecasts of habitat suitability improve habitat corridor efficacy in rapidly changing environments. *Diversity and Distributions* **20**: 1044-1057.

Publications of the Year!

- Greminger MP, Stolting KN, Nater A, **Goossens B**, Arora N, et al. 2014. Generation of SNP datasets for orangutan population genomics using improved reduced-representation sequencing and direct comparisons of SNP calling algorithms. *BMC Genomics* **15**: 16.
- Miller J, Schilthuizen M, Burmester J, Van der Graaf L, Merckx V, Jocque M, Kessler P,..., **Evans M, Evans L, Love K, Joscelyne S, Tober A, Wilson H**, Ambu L, **Goossens B**, 2014. Dispatch from the field: ecology of ground-web-building spiders with description of a new species (Araneae, Shymphytognathidae). *Biodiversity Data Journal* **2**: e1076.
- Roper KM, Scheumann M, Wiechert AK, **Nathan SKSS, Goossens B**, Owren MJ, Zimmermann E, 2014. Vocal acoustics in the endangered proboscis monkey (*Nasalis larvatus*). *American Journal of Primatology* **76**: 192-201.
- Symondson WOC, Holloway JD, **Goossens B**, Muller CT, 2014. Bornean caterpillar (Lepidoptera) constructs cocoon from *Vatica rassak* (Dipterocarpaceae) resin containing multiple deterrent compounds. *Journal of Natural History*. DOI:10.1080/00222933.2014.939731.
- **Names in bold are members of DGFC.** PDF of these papers can be obtained upon request to B. Goossens at goossensbr@cardiff.ac.uk

Danau Girang Field Centre

*Danau Girang Field Centre was opened in July 2008.
It is located in the Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary,
Sabah, Malaysia.*

*Danau Girang is owned by the Sabah Wildlife Department
and supported by Cardiff University. Its purpose is to further
scientific research with the aim of contributing to long-term
conservation projects in the area, and develop a better
understanding of our environment and the living things we
share it with.*

Danau Girang Field Centre

Lot 6
The Jungle
Lower Kinabatangan Wildlife Sanctuary
Sabah

Email: danaugirangfieldcentre@yahoo.com

Editors: Aimee Holborow and Rhys White

Director of Publication: Benoit Goossens

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